

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 /042 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:MCOOLEY:DME
APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GCHURCHILL
ARA/LA/CAR:JTHYDEN (DRAFT)
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R 162309Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU
SECDEF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, ETRN, BW, US, UK

SUBJECT: TURKS AND CAICOS IS., BWI, WATER SHORTAGE

REF: LONDON 11700

1. USN HAS AVAILABLE TWO BARGES LOCATED AT ROOSEVELT
ROADS, PUERTO RICO, AND GUANTANAMO, CUBA EACH CAPABLE
OF CARRYING THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND U.S. GALLONS
OF WATER. EACH BARGE WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS
AND FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO FIT OUT. USN CANNOT
GUARANTEE TOWS FOR THE BARGES.

2. AVAILABILITY OF A 21,000 TON USN SHIP WITH WATER
CAPACITY OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND TONS PRESENTLY ENGAGED
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IN RELIEF OPERATIONS TO CURACAO IS DEPENDENT ON DURATION

OF THAT TASK. PRESENT PLANS ANTICIPATE THIS SHIP WILL
COMPLETE MISSION IN CURACAO ON/ABOUT 19 AUGUST.

3. DOD UNABLE TO PROVIDE DESALINATION UNITS AT THIS TIME.

4. FOR DOD TO PERFORM A HUMANITARIAN OPERATION OF THIS
TYPE, THE TRANSACTION MUST INVOLVE AID'S OFFICE OF FOREIGN
DISASTER RELIEF (AID/FDA), AND A CERTIFICATION BY DEPT OF
STATE THAT SUITABLE COMMERCIAL RESOURCES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

WOULD BE REQUIRED. (HUMANITARIAN RELIEF OPERATION UNDER
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT (AID/FDA) ALSO REQUIRES DECLARATION
OF DISASTER BY CHIEF OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION PER 2FAM 060
(AID HANDBOOK NO. 8). IF SUCH A SERVICE IS PROVIDED UY
THE USG, IT WOULD BE ON A FULLY REIMBURSABLE BASIS. DOD
OFFICIALS ESTIMATE THAT USG ASSISTANCE WOULD PROBABLY
PROVE MORE EXPENSIVE TO HMG THAN COMMERCIAL CONTRACT.

5. IF HMG DESIRES USG ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER, THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUESTED:

A) HOW HAVE WATER SHORTAGES ON THE ISLANDS BEEN SOLVED IN
THE PAST?

B) DOES HMG HAVE A SOURCE OF FRESH WATER IN THE AREA WHICH
MIGHT BE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN WATER FROM THE USN DESALINIZA-
TION PLANT AT GUANTANAMO?

C) WHAT IS THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF GALLONS NEEDED TO
ALLEVIATE CRISIS? THE OPTIMUM DESIRED NUMBER? (IT IS
OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT NORMAL USAGE IS FORTY THOUSAND
GALLONS PER WEEK, THAT THE PUBLIC CATCHMENT SUPPLY STOOD
AT FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND GALLONS ON 12 JULY, AND THAT
THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT RAINFALL SINCE THAT DATE.
FURTHER, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT PUBLIC SUPPLY
MAXIMUM CAPACITY IS EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND GALLONS.)

D) HOW WOULD FRESH WATER BE TRANSFERRED FROM BARGES TO
PUBLIC SUPPLY SYSTEM (I.E., WHERE COULD BARGES MOOR?
WOULD USG HAVE TO SUPPLY PUMPS AND FITTINGS? WHAT ARE
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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF PUBLIC SUPPLY SYSTEM?).

6. DEPT WILL PROVIDE LISTING OF AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL
SOURCES IF REQUESTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, DISASTER RELIEF, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE203721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MCOOLEY:DME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760314-1313
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760849/aaaabqfv.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 11700
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKS AND CAICOS IS., BWI, WATER SHORTAGE
TAGS: MARR, ETRN, SWEL, BW, US, UK
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006